

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 2 and 5 are amended. It is respectfully submitted that this response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 16, 2005.

Claims 2 and 5 were objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended these claims for purpose of clarity. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these objections.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended these claims for purpose of clarity. In view of the amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these objections.

The Examiner has misinterpreted the above-identified application and incorrectly asserted that “the height of 1 should be larger than the width of 0.9.” Claim 1 recites a bead “*having a sectional configuration in which the height is larger than 0.9 times the width.*” This limitation is clearly supported in the specification, e.g., p. 3, lines 9-11. It is also supported in the specification on page 14, lines 13-14 and Fig. 4, which were cited by the Examiner in making this rejection. For example, the height is larger than 0.9 times the width when the bead height is 1.4mm and width is 1.3mm. Also, when read in context, page 14, lines 13 and 14 recites that “it is possible to obtain (a bead)...in which height H is larger than width BW. This is consistent with the limitation that *the height is larger than 0.9 times the width.*”

Accordingly, the §112 rejection of claims 1, 3-4 and 8-10 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kitamura et al.* (US 6,139,639). Applicants have amended claims 1, 2 and 5. In view of the amendments and following remarks, Applicants disagree with the Examiner's position that all claim elements are anticipated by *Kitamura et al.* and respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

The Examiner mischaracterized the front lip 58 and rear lip 60 of the die 40 as a discharge port formed into a non-circular configuration. For instance, the "discharge port" in *Kitamura et al.* is not the front lip 58 and rear lip 60 of the die. Moreover, even if the Examiner characterized *Kitamura et al.*'s discharge outlet 66 as a discharge port (according to the above-identified application), the reference fails to teach the discharge outlet 66 as comprising a non-circular configuration.

Also, *Kitamura et al.* fails to teach that "said discharge port...discharges said material to form a bead having a sectional configuration in which the height is larger than 0.9 times the width." *Kitamura et al.* merely teaches that "the uniformity of the coating D is controlled by adjusting the stop gap L_p of the die 40 or the clearance L_c , i.e. the length of the gap between the die 40 and the substrate A, as shown in Fig. 3."

Accordingly, the §102 rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 10 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 8, and 9 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Dominquez* (US 4,964,362). However, *Dominquez* fails to disclose that "said discharge port...discharges said material to form a bead having a sectional configuration in which the

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height is larger than 0.9 times the width.” [claim 1]. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §102 rejections.

Claims 3 and 4 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dominquez* in view of *Clitheros et al* (US 4,564,410). These claims depend from independent claims 1 and 2 and should likewise be allowable in view of the above comments by nature of their dependency.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, for the reasons detailed above, it is believed that all claims are allowable.

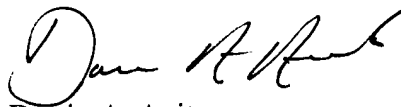
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrin A. Auito", written in a cursive style.

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